

AGENDA ITEM IX A

STAFF REPORTS ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAMS

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-BATON ROUGE

Ph.D. in Nursing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting of June 22, 2000, the Board of Regents took the following action:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed Ph.D. program in Nursing (CIP Code 51.1608) at Southern University-Baton Rouge, subject to the following stipulations:

- 1. By March 1, 2001, Southern University-Baton Rouge shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a report which:**
 - a. Documents the hiring of two additional Ph.D. in Nursing in faculty—one to fill the currently vacant position and another to fill a new position; and**
 - b. Updates efforts of the University to address the other weaknesses and problematic areas the staff has identified.**
- 2. Upon assessment of the report described above, the Board of Regents shall determine a date for implementation of the program and whether any additional progress reports should be required.**

STAFF COMMENTS

On September 22, 2000, Dr. Brenda Birkett, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at SUBR, submitted its first progress report relative to implementation of the new Ph.D. program in Nursing. Highlights of this report include:

1. Three new faculty have been hired; the highest degrees earned of these faculty range from Ph.D. in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Science to Doctor of Public Health. Two are full-time appointments and one is part-time. In toto, this results in an additional .5 FTE more than the consultants required. All new faculty have previous collegiate nurse teaching experience, but none have specific expertise in doctoral-level curricula and research.

2. The University is currently conducting an comprehensive analysis of administrative, teaching, and research responsibilities associated and required of the Ph.D. program to determine the most effective use of faculty resources. No decision has yet been made to hire an Assistant/Associate Dean, as recommended by external consultants.
3. A Faculty Recruitment Plan has been formulated and implemented.
4. The Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Research, and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration are finalizing details on a new allocation formula which would allow for a return of a percentage of indirect costs generated by research grants held by Nursing faculty back to the School of Nursing.
5. The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has under consideration a plan to institute a clinical faculty track for the School of Nursing. Various other levels of University administration must be involved in the consideration of this change prior to final approval.
6. The School is now fully equipped with fiber optic access and state-of-the-art computer, web, video, and CD ROM capabilities. A plan for on-going electronic enhancement has been developed.
7. A new Vice Chancellor for Research was appointed January 1, 2000. She has updated the policies and procedures manual for grant administration and a strategic plan for sponsored research has been developed. There are plans to enhance research administration staffing with six new positions.
8. Student enrollment into the Ph.D. program has been limited to five new students per year.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The University is making strides toward fulfilling stipulations which the Board of Regents attached to the motion of conditional program of approval for the Ph.D. program in Nursing at SUBR, yet there is much still to be done. While three new faculty have been hired (2.5FTE), only one possesses a Ph.D. in Nursing and none have significant doctoral program experience. This observation does not preclude the possibility that these faculty will be very effective in their new roles, but they are somewhat untested as of yet. The indirect cost return issue still must be resolved. Sharing of grant revenue between the University and the affected graduate program/department/school is a critical incentive for faculty to enhance their research productivity. Clinical faculty positions at the School are needed to alleviate the excessive teaching/clinical responsibilities of current graduate faculty. Additional professional and support research staff would appear to be essential if SUBR is to achieve the research capacity expected of a national research university.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff suggests that the concerns expressed above be forwarded to the University with the expectation that another progress report, to be due March 1, 2001, will provide further evidence of progress toward fulfilling the Regents' original stipulations of approval. The contents of this second progress report will guide the Board of Regents in determining a definitive date for program implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the progress report from Southern University-Baton Rouge dated September 22, 2000, relative to the fulfillment of stipulations of approval placed on the Ph.D. program in Nursing. A subsequent progress report from the University shall be due in the Commissioner of Higher Education's office by March 1, 2001. At its March, 2001 meeting, the Board of Regents shall consider the contents of this second progress report and a definitive date for program implementation.

AGENDA ITEM IX B

STAFF REPORTS ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

B.S. in Environmental Sciences and Policy

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting of September 28, 2000, the Board of Regents took the following action:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed B.S. program in Environmental Sciences and Policy (CIP Code 30.0102) at the University of New Orleans, with the stipulation that the University shall submit a progress report to the Commissioner of Higher Education that addresses the following concerns:

- 1. The need for student advising;**
- 2. The need for staff in excess of the current one-half position;**
- 3. Some guarantee of additional University support for participating departments;**
- 4. The need for additional specialized book and journal acquisitions; and**
- 5. The use of informational technologies to support student learning.**

This report shall be due by December 1, 2000.

STAFF SUMMARY

Well in advance of the date stipulated, UNO has submitted the required progress report. Highlights of this report include:

1. The program coordinator and program committee will have student advising responsibilities. The coordinator will advise new students; once a student has chosen a specific concentration, a program committee member with specific expertise in that area will advise the student from then on.
2. Program staff, while initially limited during program start-up, will be increased as warranted by enrollment growth in the program. Necessary funding increases will come from student tuition revenues and departmental reallocations.

3. The Provost will allocate a portion of tuition revenues to support program costs and the related needs of the participating departments.
4. Some of the library resources needed by the program are available through the Environmental Science Research Institute within the Department of Sociology. This unique resource, along with other special collections (U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, etc.), will address all but the most esoteric needs. Additional library acquisitions will be purchased on an “on-need” basis, using new tuition revenues.
5. The University cites the use of recent Student Technology Fee revenues to expand student labs across the campus. Priority will be given to program needs in funding decisions of the University’s Faculty Initiative for Technology in Training. Blackboard and Power Point technologies are becoming increasingly more frequent in faculty research and classroom instructional presentations. Compressed video and other transmitting technologies will be used to coordinate program offerings with Nunez, Delgado, River Parishes.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The University’s responses are generally appropriate. It is incumbent on the Office of Academic Affairs at UNO to provide the promised additional resources needed to support program implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee accept the progress report from the University of New Orleans dated September 26, 2000 relative to fulfillment of stipulations of approval upon the B.S. program in Environmental Sciences and Policy. Based on the contents of this report, the program is hereby granted full approval.